

From the Desk of Rick Bagley

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

I wanted to write to Judge Kollar-Kotelly to encourage her to approve of the settlement that has been reached between Microsoft, nine of the attorneys general and the Department of Justice in Washington. If you have a consensus like this with so many interested parties, it is hard to see what is standing in the way of approval of this settlement.

As a member of the school board in Forsyth County and a former employee of one of the largest law firms in the Southeastern United States, I am more than aware of what happens when the government gets involved in lawsuits. The effects of a lawsuit on any company, school or just an individual is chilling enough. But in this case, the effect of forward movement in the Microsoft lawsuit was devastating to millions of investors throughout America who were heavily invested into Microsoft stock. During this period and while many high-tech firms were losing ground, Microsoft continued to be strong and show good earnings. Yet, by facing a court trial and possible break up, Microsoft stock suffered a great deal as did investors as, at that time, Microsoft was the No. 1 held stock in pension and mutual funds.

The reason that I would like to see a quick settlement in this case is to get the matter out of the courts so that Microsoft and the other parties can get back to business.

Thanks for your consideration of my views

Sincerely,


Rick Bagley

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